

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An interface unit capable of being connected to a main unit of a key telephone system, the main unit connecting a telephone terminal to a telephone network, the interface unit adapted to communicate with the telephone terminal at a high or low transmission speed, the interface unit comprising:

a first transmitter configured to transmit a type query signal to the telephone terminal at the low speed;

a first receiver configured to receive a type signal from the telephone terminal at the low speed;

a second transmitter configured to transmit a speed change request to the telephone terminal at the low speed and change a transmission speed from the low speed to the high speed if the received type signal indicates that the telephone terminal is capable of transmitting data at the high speed;

a detector configured to determine whether data is transmitted from the telephone terminal at the high speed or the low speed; and

a speed change unit configured to change a transmission speed from the high speed to the low speed when the detector determines that the data is transmitted from the telephone terminal at the low speed.

2 - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A key telephone system comprising a telephone terminal and a main unit which connects the telephone terminal to a telephone network, and includes a telephone interface unit connected to the telephone terminal, a network interface unit connected to a telephone network, and a connection line connecting the telephone interface unit and the network interface unit, wherein said telephone interface unit comprises:

a first transmitter configured to transmit a type query signal to the telephone terminal at a low speed;

a first receiver configured to receive a type signal from the telephone terminal at the low speed;

a second transmitter configured to transmit a speed change request to the telephone terminal at the low speed and change a transmission speed from the low speed to a high speed if the received type signal indicates that the telephone terminal is capable of transmitting data at the high speed;

a detector configured to determine whether data is transmitted from the telephone terminal at the high speed or the low speed; and

a speed change unit configured to change a transmission speed from the high speed to the low speed when the detector determines that the data is transmitted from the telephone terminal at the low speed; and

said telephone terminal comprising:

a first transmitter configured to transmit the type signal to the interface unit at the low speed in response to the type query signal; and

a first receiver configured to receive the speed change request transmitted from said second transmitter at the low speed and to change a transmission speed from the low speed to the high speed in response to the receiver speed change request.

6 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A transmission speed control method for a key telephone system comprising a telephone terminal and a main unit which connects the telephone terminal to a telephone network, the method comprising:

causing the interface unit to transmit a type query signal to the telephone terminal at a low speed;

causing the telephone terminal to transmit a type signal to the interface unit at the low speed in response to the type query signal;

causing the interface unit to receive the type signal from the telephone terminal at the low speed;

causing the interface unit to transmit a speed change request to the telephone terminal at the low speed and change a transmission speed from the low speed to a high speed if the received type signal indicates that the telephone terminal is capable of transmitting data at the high speed;

causing the telephone terminal to change a transmission speed from the low speed to the high speed in response to the speed change request;

causing the interface unit to determine whether data is transmitted from the telephone terminal at the high speed or the low speed; and

causing the interface unit to change a transmission speed from the high speed to the low speed when it is determined that the data is transmitted from the telephone terminal at the low speed.

10. (Previously Presented) An interface unit for a telephone system comprising a telephone terminal and a main unit which connects the telephone terminal to a telephone network and includes the interface unit capable of being connecting to the telephone terminal, the telephone terminal being capable of operating at a high or low speed, the interface unit comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit data to the telephone terminal at the low speed;

a receiver configured to receive data from the telephone terminal at the low speed;

a detector configured to detect whether or not the telephone terminal is capable of transmitting and receiving data at the high speed; and

a mode setting device configured to set an operation speed of said transmitter and said receiver to an optimum speed based on a detection result of said detector.

11. (Previously Presented) The interface unit according to claim 10, further comprising:

a mode change requesting device configured to cause the telephone terminal to set an operation speed to the optimum speed based on the detection result of said detector.

12 - 14. (Canceled)